

# Virginia Department of Education Board Highlights

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## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Diane Atkinson Takes Seat on Board of Education**

Diane Atkinson was formally installed as a member of the Board of Education at the board's September 26 meeting in Richmond. Accompanying Ms. Atkinson during the ceremony were her husband, Frank, and son, Paul, who held the family Bible as his mother took the oath. Secretary of the Commonwealth Anne Petera administered the oath of office.

Ms. Atkinson was appointed by Governor James Gilmore to fill the unexpired term of the late Jennifer C. Byler.

"I am very cognizant of the responsibility of this role and I plan to take that responsibility very seriously," said Ms. Atkinson. "I am also very cognizant of the person that I replaced and her commitment and hope that I can only show as much commitment as she did to public education."

Prior to her appointment to the board Ms. Atkinson served as a special advisor to Superintendent of Public Instruction Jo Lynne DeMary and as Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Public Affairs. Ms. Atkinson also has served in the United States Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs.

## **Newport News and Fairfax County Superintendents Honored by Board**

The superintendents of the Newport News and Fairfax County school systems were honored by the Board of Education at its September 26 meeting in Richmond.

Board President Kirk T. Schroder presented a resolution of recognition to Newport News Superintendent Wayne D. Lett in honor of Dr. Lett's selection as the 2001 Virginia Superintendent of the Year by the Virginia Association of School Superintendents. Dr. Lett stated that he was humbled by his selection and attributed his success to the quality of his staff.

Mr. Schroder presented the first Virginia Award for Leadership in Arts Instruction to Fairfax County Superintendent Daniel Domenech. In presenting the award Mr. Schroder told Dr. Domenech that he hoped other superintendents would follow his example and expand instruction in the fine arts.

The Virginia Award for Leadership in Arts Instruction was established this year by the board and the Virginia Commission for the Arts to recognize educators and others who promote instruction in the fine arts.

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## Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting September 26, 2001

### Consent Agenda

- Final review of recommendations concerning release of Literary Fund loans for placement on waiting list
- Final review of recommendations concerning applications for Literary Fund loans
- Final review of financial report of Literary Fund
- First review of approval of the Notice of Regulatory Action (NOIRA) for Regulations Governing the Operation of Proprietary Schools and Issuing of Agent Permits ( 8 VAC 20-350). Moved to consent agenda from regular agenda
- First review of Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to promulgate new Regulations Governing Private Day Schools for Students with Disabilities (8 VAC 20-670). Moved to consent agenda from regular agenda.
- Second review of proposed Regulations Governing State-Funded Remedial Programs (8 VAC 20-630). Moved to consent agenda from regular agenda.
- Final review of Regulations Governing the Secondary School Transcript (8 VAC 20-160). Moved to consent agenda from regular agenda.
- Final review of proposed Board of Education meeting dates for January – November 2002. Moved to consent agenda from regular agenda.
- First review of appointments to the State Special Education Advisory Committee. Moved to consent agenda from regular agenda.

### Resolutions and Recognitions

- Resolution of recognition honoring Wayne D. Lett, superintendent of Newport News Public Schools and the Virginia 2001 Superintendent of the Year.
- Presentation of Board of Education and Virginia Commission for the Arts Virginia Award for Leadership in Arts Instruction to Daniel Domenech, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools.

### Discussion and Action Items

ITEM	ACTION
First review of proposed permanent Regulations Governing Determination of Critical Teacher Shortage Areas for Awarding the Virginia Teaching Scholarship Loan (8 VAC 20-650)	The board amended the regulations and authorized the Department of Education to continue the procedures of the Administrative Process Act.
First review of revisions to Regulations Governing Pupil Transportation	The board amended the proposed regulations and authorized the Department of Education to continue the procedures of the Administrative Process Act.
Report of the Accountability Advisory Committee	The board heard the report.
First review of the work plan for the Board of Education's Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly	The board approved the work plan.

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Presentation by representatives of Virginia CARES	The board accepted the presentation.
First review of report to the Governor and the 2002 General Assembly concerning recommendations from House Joint Resolution 640	The board accepted the report on first review and scheduled final review for the board's October meeting.
First review of proposed revisions to the Standards of Learning for mathematics	The board accepted the revisions on first review for public comment.
First review of the 2002-2004 biennial budget for Direct Aid to Public Education	The board accepted the budget on first review and scheduled final review for the board's October meeting.
First review of proposed amendments to the Board of Education's By-Laws	The board accepted the proposed amendments for first review with final review scheduled for the board's October meeting.
First review of appointments to vacancies on the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure	The board deferred first review until its October meeting.
Final review of a request for increased graduation requirements from the Arlington County Public Schools	Request withdrawn by Arlington County Public Schools.
Final review of the definitions of Low Performing and At-risk of Becoming Low-performing Institutions of Higher Education	The board approved the proposed definitions on final review.
Report on statewide pass rates for the spring 2001 Standards of Learning tests	The board received the report.

## **Executive Session**

## **Public Hearings**

- Public Hearing on proposed revisions to the Licensure Regulations for School Personnel Career Switcher proposals
- Public Hearing on the proposed revisions to the Vocational Education Regulations (Career and Technical Regulations)

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